

WI-478
Camden Avenue Rowhouse Block
Salisbury
Private

c. 1917

The Camden Avenue Rowhouse block is one of a handful of multi-unit housing projects erected in Salisbury during the early twentieth century. Dating around 1917, this three-sectioned rowhouse block is architecturally distinguished by its Ionic columned porch and neoclassical oriole windows on the second floor. Much of the classically derived decoration on the three oriole windows as well as the turned baluster railing atop the parapet wall is pressed metal.

The Camden Avenue rowhouse block was erected for the Camden Improvement Company around 1917 after the organization purchased a large section of street frontage. Seven years later, in August 1919, the Camden Improvement Company sold one improved lot, designated as "Lot No. 3" to James E. Lowe, Sr. and his wife Emma for \$5,100, indicating the value of one third of the building at the time. The lot measured 26 ½' across by 96' deep. This rowhouse block, as well as its nearby neighbor on Camden Court and a few other units in the Newtown Historic District, reflect speculator's efforts to create condensed, urban-style residences at a time when quality middle range housing was in high demand.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. W I-478

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Camden Avenue Rowhouse Block

other

2. Location

street and number 400-402-404 Camden Avenue

not for publication

city, town Salisbury

vicinity

county Wicomico

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Camden Avenue Salisbury LL

street and number 1619 North Division Street

telephone

city, town Salisbury

state MD

zip code 21804

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court

tax map and parcel Map 111, P. 1514-16

city, town Salisbury, Maryland

liber 1421 folio 825

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
☒ **Contributing Resource in Local Historic District**
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
district	public	agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	commerce/trade	1	buildings
structure	both	defense		sites
site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
object		education		objects
		funerary	1	Total
		government		
		health care		
		industry		
		landscape		
		recreation/culture		
		religion		
		social		
		transportation		
		work in progress		
		unknown		
		vacant/not in use		
		other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

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7. Description

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Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
x	good	ruins
	fair	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Camden Avenue rowhouse block is a series of three, two-story, two-bay units at 400-402-404 Camden Avenue in the Camden Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The rowhouse block stands on the southwest corner of the intersection of Camden Avenue and Camden Court.

Built around 1917, the two-story, three-unit rowhouse block is supported on a brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar, and the walls are comprised of a pressed brick, stretcher bond front and common bond side walls. A low sloping shed roof is disguised by parapet walls.

The east (main) elevation is comprised of a three-unit front with individual apartments defined by separate entrances. The entire first floor is sheltered by a neoclassical Ionic columned front porch. The three entrances are defined by double columned projections of the porch and separate sets of concrete and brick steps. A rectangular baluster handrail stretches between the columns. The first floor is pierced by an asymmetrical series of partially glazed doors and paired nine-over-one sash windows. Single pane transoms are fixed atop the doors. The second floor is defined by a series of three evenly spaced oriole window units lighted by rows of nine-over-one sash windows. The knee wall of the oriole window is paneled and the corners are defined by plain pilasters. The top of each oriole window unit is capped by neoclassical pediment that is enriched with a molded wreath and leaf decoration within the pediment. The pediment frieze is a continuation of the metal frieze that stretches across the entire front of the apartment block. Capping the parapet roof is a metal turned baluster railing with paneled posts at regular intervals topped by urn-shaped finials.

The south side is defined by an asymmetrical fenestration of paired and single nine-over-one window sash fitted within segmental arched openings accented with double rowlock arches. The north side facing Camden Court is highlighted by a continuation of the metal cornice that trims the front of the rowhouse block.

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8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts	
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy	
1800-1899	x architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government	
x 1900-1999	art	entertainment/	landscape architecture	religion	
2000-	commerce	recreation	law	science	
	communications	ethnic heritage	literature	social history	
	community planning	exploration/	maritime history	transportation	
	conservation	settlement	military	other:	

Significance dates

Architect

Specific dates

Builder

Evaluation for:

National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Camden Avenue rowhouse block is one of a handful of multi-unit attached housing projects erected in Salisbury during the early twentieth century. Dating around 1917, this three-sectioned rowhouse block is architecturally distinguished by its Ionic columned porch and neoclassical oriole windows on the second floor. Much of the classically derived decoration on the three oriole windows as well as the turned baluster railing that accents the top of the building is pressed metal.

The Camden Avenue rowhouse block was erected for the Camden Improvement Company around 1917 after the organization purchased a large section of street frontage.¹ Seven years later, in August 1919, the Camden Improvement Company sold one improved lot, designated as "Lot No. 3" to James E. Lowe Sr. and his wife Emma, for \$5,100. The

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 81/464, 31 December 1912.

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lot measured 26 ½' across by 96' deep.² This rowhouse block, as well as its nearby neighbor on Camden Court and a few other units in the Newtown Historic District, reflect local speculator's effort to create condensed, urban-style residences at a time when middle range housing was in high demand.

² Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 113/461, 15 August 1919.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structure

Category: Dwelling

Historic Environment: Residential Neighborhood

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-478

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed

Quadrangle name

Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

WI-478
Camden Avenue Rowhouse Block
400-404 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

AJS 1004/349 Elizabeth M. Bounds

to

12/28/1983 Edward G. Bounds, Jr.
Charles R. Dashiell, Jr.

Item 5th

1004/343 Edward G. Bounds

to

12/28/1983 Elizabeth Bounds

Item 7th (A)

AJS 974/179 Edward G. Bounds
Elizabeth M. Bounds

to

5/3/1982 Edward G. Bounds
Elizabeth M. Bounds

Lot No. 3

JWTS 643/355 Ralph McFadden Williams

to

12/13/1966 Edward G. Bounds
Elizabeth M. Bounds

Page 3

JWTS 344/424

to

Ralph McFadden Williams
Cora G. Wimbrow

Cora G. Wimbrow

to

W. Edgar Porter

Item 2

Henry W. Roberts
Ruby F. Roberts

to

Addie S. Wimbrow
Cora G. Wimbrow

Lot No. 3 "Camden"

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Camden Avenue Rowhouse Block
400-404 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JCK 136/44

James E. Lowe, Sr.
Emma S. Lowe

to

9/10/1924

Henry W. Roberts

...assuming and convenating by Henry W. Roberts to pay
mortgage on the hereinafter described parcel of land from
James E. Lowe and Emma S. Lowe to S. Franklyn Woodcock,
dated 8/15/1919, \$2,500 JCK 115/101

Lot No. 3 Camden Improvement Company, JCK 113/461

JCK 113/461

Camden Improvement Company

to

8/15/1919

James E. Lowe, Sr.
Emma S. Lowe
\$5,100 26 1/2' x 96 3/10' being Lot No. 3

EAT 81/464

William P. Woolston, et ux.

to

12/31/1912

Camden Improvement Company
\$6,000 frontage of 100'

EAT 77/29

Mary E. Dashiell
John M. Dashiell

to

11/1/1911

William P. Woolston

180 1 NW
HEBRON

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

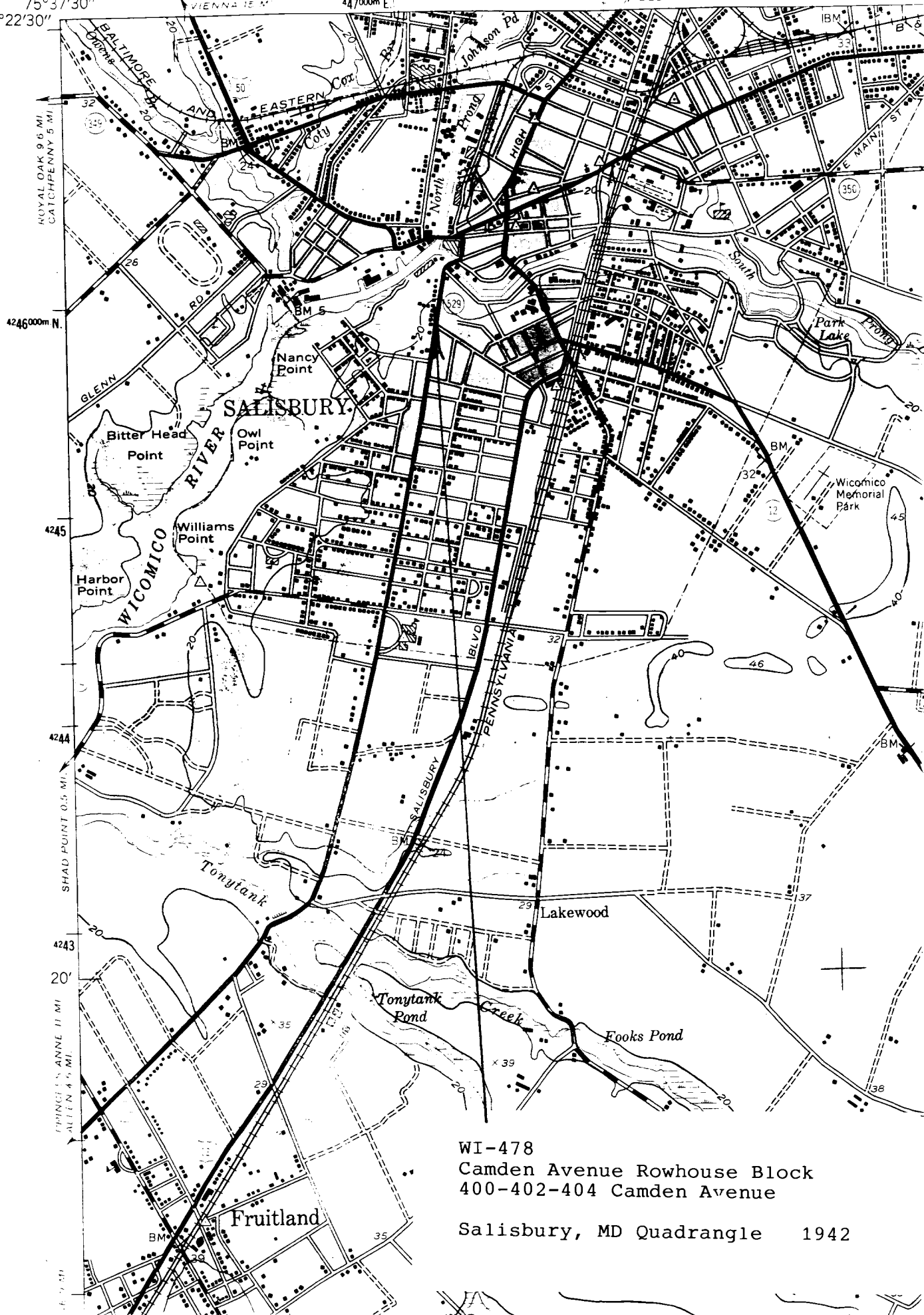
75°37'30"
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.
VIENNA 15 MI.

427000m E

LAUREL 13 MI.
DELMAR 6 MI.

35'



WI-478
Camden Avenue Rowhouse Block
400-402-404 Camden Avenue

Salisbury, MD Quadrangle 1942



